

In the 108th Congress, DeFazio was chosen to serve on the newly-created Select Committee on Homeland Security. In the 109th Congress, the Select Committee was elevated to permanent status as the House Committee on Homeland Security. Congressman DeFazio was chosen for continued service on the Committee. The Congressman has kept a close eye on the organization and implementation of the new Department of Homeland Security to ensure that it improves the security of our nation.

With his expertise on aviation and transportation issues as well as his knowledge of energy infrastructure, DeFazio brings a diverse and extensive background to the Committee.

In the 111th Congress (2009-2010)

After the failed terror attack on Northwest flight #253 on Christmas day in 2009, DeFazio and Chairman Thompson sent a letter to President Obama recommending the administration implement enhanced screening procedures for individuals with visas or lookouts on the Terrorist Identities Datamart Environment (TIDE). As the central repository of information on international terrorists, TIDE supports the federal government's counter terrorism activities by maintaining all information in possession of federal agencies on the identities of individuals known or appropriately suspected to be or known to be involved in terrorist activities. Based on information his father provided to the U.S. Embassy in Nigeria, suggesting his son may be involved with Yemeni-based extremists, Umar Farouk Abdulmutallab was entered into TIDE. However, the TIDE entry, in and of itself, did not trigger additional screening of Mr. Abdulmatallab prior to boarding Flight #253. Had Mr. Abdulmutallab received additional screening, officials may have discovered the explosives concealed on him, thereby preventing the attempted attack.

DeFazio cosponsored and voted for H.R. 5498, the Weapons of Mass Destruction Prevention and Preparedness Act of 2010. The bill is based on recommendations included in the 2008 WMD Commission report "The World at Risk." The Commission findings state that al-Qaeda is seeking to acquire or develop WMD's and would likely seek to use them against the U.S. This legislation will enhance America's prevention, deterrence and preparedness efforts, as well as interdiction and response and recovery capabilities.

DeFazio voted for H.R. 5875, the Border Security Emergency Appropriations Act in July 2010, providing net emergency spending of \$500 million, requested by the President, to enhance security at the Southwest Border, including by funding 1,200 additional Border Patrol agents and 500 additional Customs and Border Protection officers. Also provides for further fence construction and construction of new border patrol bases on the southwest border.

DeFazio and Chairwoman Jackson-Lee sent a letter to TSA raising concerns about the effectiveness of diverting resources from airport checkpoints in order to conduct low-tech gate screening at airports. The changes in screening were part of the Risk Emphasized Flight Screening program, which was intended to update protocols for screening high-risk flights and watch list selectees to help eliminate "insider threats." The DeFazio and Jackson-Lee letter expressed concerns about the effectiveness of conducting low-tech gate screening and basic pat downs of passengers that have already undergone sophisticated x-ray, magnetometer, and bomb detection screening at the front of the airport. They also expressed concerns about diverting resources from the front of airport during busy travel times in order to conduct these gate screenings.

DeFazio cosponsored and voted for passage of H.R. 3791, the Fire Grants Reauthorization Act of 2009. The legislation provides funding to local fire departments to purchases needed equipment, conduct fire awareness and prevention activities, and ensure that personnel are well trained. The bill increased funding for the program by \$9.8 million/billion? The bill passed the full House on November 18, 2009,

DeFazio voted for passage of H.R. 2868, the Chemical and Water Security Act of 2009 (CFATS). The bill authorizes and improves security standards for chemical security, closes a major security gap by establishing a security program for drinking water and waste water facilities, strengthens CFATS by adding enforcement tools, protecting the rights of whistleblowers, and enhancing training security. The bill was approved by the full House on November 6, 2009.

DeFazio successfully attached language to H.R. 2868 to require the Secretary to review whether sodium fluoroacetate should be a regulated chemical under this Act.

DeFazio cosponsored and voted for passage of H.R. 1881, the Transportation Security Workforce Enhancement Act of 2009, legislation that would extend collective bargaining rights to employees of the Department of Homeland Security. Many federal employees involved in securing our nation, such as Customs and Border Protection Officers, Border Patrol Officers, and civilian employees at the Department of Defense have civil service protections and collective bargaining rights. The committee approved the bill on September 29, 2009.

President Obama's nominee for TSA Administrator was held up for months by Sen. DeMint largely due to the Senator's opposition to allowing TSA employees to organize. After the failed Christmas, 2009 attempt to blow up Northwest flight #253 over Detroit, DeFazio urged Secretary Napolitano to use her authority to allow workers to unionize, and urged congressional leaders to move forward legislatively with H.R. 1881 so the next TSA Administrator nominee could focus on security, rather than be held-up over this issue.

The phase-in of new screening requirements for cargo transported on passenger airplanes became an issue of concern to the cherry industry. Approximately 50 percent of all cherries exported from the Pacific Northwest are transported on passenger aircraft, and the highly perishable nature of cherries make them easily damaged by screening equipment, and even minor delays in getting to market can ruin the season for growers. During hearings on the implementation of the program, DeFazio urged TSA to make more canine teams available to growers to help meet the new screening requirements. He also supported an amendment to the TSA reauthorization bill to add an additional 100 canine teams dedicated to air cargo screening, more than doubling the number of available teams to meet growing demands due to the phase-in of the 100% screening program.

DeFazio cosponsored H.R. 2195, legislation to better protect the nation's electric grid from cyber attack.

DeFazio voted for passage of H.R. 2200, the Transportation Security Administration Authorization Act of 2009. The legislation authorized over \$15.6 billion for the TSA for FY 2010 and 2011. Specifically, the bill triples funding for surface transportation security, greatly

improves general and commercial aviation security, and strengthens security training for transportation works.

DeFazio helped lead a successful effort to defeat an amendment that would have prohibited the use of federal funds to purchase whole body imaging machines that use backscatter x-ray technology or active millimeter wave technology. After the failed “Christmas bombing” in 2009 on Northwest flight #253, the technology was highly sought after by airports around the country. In fact, the government approved emergency funding to help procure an additional 800 WBI machines for the U.S. aviation system.

DeFazio was able to attach provisions to enhance the Federal Flight Deck Office Program (FFDO) to H.R. 2200, the TSA Reauthorization Act. DeFazio helped create the FFDO, or armed pilots program, after the 9/11 attacks to provide a last line of defense against terrorists on airlines. The DeFazio-Dent language in H.R. 2200 will improve training opportunities for FFDO’s by expanding the number of eligible training facilities and to reimburse FFDO’s for reasonable expenses incurred to complete training such as ground transportation, lodging, meals and ammunition. Currently, FFDO’s must pay most of the expenses for training and certification themselves, while the federal government pays for training and certification for Air Marshalls and other federal law enforcement officials.

In the 110th Congress (2007-2008)

DeFazio voted for passage of H.R. 4179, the Fair, Accurate, Secure and Timely Redress Act of 2008, legislation to establish a timely and fair redress process for individuals who have been misidentified against terrorist watch lists and improves information sharing within the

Department of Homeland Security. The bill passed June 18, 2008.

DeFazio voted for passage of H.R. 5982, the Biometric Enhancement for Airport-Risk Reduction Act of 2008, legislation to require TSA to conduct a study on how airports can adopt biometric identification systems for airport workers to improve security and efficiency at our airports.

DeFazio also voted for House passage of H.R. 2631, the Nuclear Forensics and Attribution Act, legislation to support international and domestic efforts to create a nuclear forensics capability to determine the sources of nuclear and “dirty” bombs.

On January 9, 2007, DeFazio voted in favor of H.R. 1, legislation to implement several remaining recommendations of the bipartisan 9/11 Commission. DeFazio was appointed as a conferee on the bill by Speaker Pelosi. On July 27, 2007, the final version of the legislation was approved by Congress and it was signed into law on August 3, 2007. H.R. 1:

- Improves the explosive screening of checked baggage at airports, by requiring the rapid installation of the latest in-line explosive detection systems at airports.
- Expands the screening of cargo on passenger aircraft, by establishing a system for phasing in the inspection of 100% of cargo carried on passenger aircraft over the next three years.
- Beefs up efforts to prevent the proliferation of WMD, including strengthening the Defense Department’s Nunn-Lugar program, strengthening the Energy Department’s Global Threat Reduction Initiative, and creating a Coordinator for the Prevention of WMD Proliferation, who would serve as a presidential advisor.
- Cracks down on the transfer of nuclear technology, by requiring the President to impose sanctions on any person who trades nuclear enrichment technology to a non-nuclear weapons state.
- Enhances communications interoperability for first responders, by establishing a stand-alone communications interoperability grant program.
- Strengthens efforts to prevent terrorist travel, including by authorizing the hiring of additional experienced intelligence analysts who are specialists in the field of terrorist travel.
- Improves intelligence and information sharing between state, local and federal law enforcement, by taking such steps as strengthening intelligence fusion centers and providing local law enforcement with a presence at the National Counter Terrorism Center.
- Strengthens public diplomacy and other efforts to reduce the appeal of extremism, including beefing up U.S. educational, economic development and other aid programs overseas.

On May 22, 2007, DeFazio introduced H.R. 2433, legislation to limit the revolving door between the Department of Homeland Security and private sector companies involved in homeland security issues. Too often, senior officials at DHS leave for the private sector only to lobby the Department on the very issues they oversaw while in government. After taking office in 2009, President Obama closed this loophole via Executive Order.

In the 109th Congress (2005-2006)

DeFazio voted in favor of H.R. 5441, the fiscal year 2007 Homeland Security Appropriations bill. This legislation included \$34.8 billion, \$2.7 billion more than President Bush requested, for homeland security programs. Of this, \$21.3 billion was to beef up border security, including adding 1,500 Border Patrol agents and constructing double-layered fencing along the southern border. The bill also provided \$4.3 billion for port, container and cargo security, 14% more than the 2006 funding level.

DeFazio secured \$9 million in SAFETEA-LU to help the seven counties in the 4th congressional district develop an interoperable communications system to help respond to disasters. He has also fought to provide Oregon's first responders - local police, fire, emergency services, and health care officials - with the resources they need for disaster preparedness, training, and communications equipment to deal with natural and non-natural disasters.